

HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Handout: Typical Behaviors

Toddler/Kindergarten

15 MONTHS

Likes to:	Walk alone Fling objects Fill and empty Respond to key words Practice hand skills
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Toys:	Outdoor toys Manipulative toys
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16 MONTHS

Likes to:	Squat down Carry things Use sand Rough house
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17 MONTHS

Likes to	Lug, tug, and drag things Wave bye-bye Use water
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Toys:	Water, pouring toys Pull toys Hammering toys
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18 MONTHS

Likes to:	Oppose you with "No!" Get what they want now Use words with gestures Climb stairs
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Toys:	Toy telephone
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Picture books

Typical Behaviors (Continued)

19 MONTHS

Likes to:	Climb up onto things Move to music Identify body parts Sort objects and shapes
Toys:	Shape sorting box Musical toys

20 MONTHS

Likes to:	Fetch and carry Dig and make a mess Take things apart Use 15 to 20 words
Toys:	Carrying case Things to take apart

21 MONTHS

Likes to:	Say, "Mine!" Mark on paper Point to objects Turn pages Fit things together
Toys:	Big crayons and paper Picture books Constructing set

22 MONTHS

Likes to:	Fit shapes Watch grown-ups Come when called
Toys:	Simple puzzles Plastic lids with jars Shelves for his own toys

Typical Behaviors (Continued)

23 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

Likes to:	Use 3 word sentences
	Run
	Help around the house
	Hear rhymes
	Work with fingers

Toys:	Doll
	Teddy
	Riding toys
	Pull toys

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Characteristics of the Pre-school Child

Handout

All the above characteristics, of course, vary with the individual child, dependent upon his/her physical, intellectual and social development. Lack of experience in a particular area may result in a child displaying characteristics more common to a younger child.

AGE 2

1. Very curious, full of exploration.
2. Easily frustrated - inclined toward temper tantrums.
3. Says "no" to many things to see effect and find out limits. This is his/her way of testing reality.
4. Few if any goals - flits easily from one activity to another.
5. Extremely self-centered.
6. Inclined toward mimicry.
7. Speech usually not in complete sentences but vocabulary is effective.
8. Plays alone or beside other children. With older 2's the number of friends increase.
9. Attention span - one to five minutes.
10. Generally poor control of small muscles unable to string very small beads, etc.
11. Tends to cling to familiar objects: toys, dolls, blankets.
12. Active but slow to adapt to change.
13. Tries to assert independence beyond capabilities; "me do".
14. Very dependent on routines.
15. Trying to establish identity: needs his/her name used often.
16. Loves to climb into things.
17. Time concept: NOW
18. Dislikes interruptions in play.
19. Feelings shift readily.
20. Seldom completely toilet-trained.

Characteristics of the Pre-school Child (Continued)

AGE 3

1. Like to help and please adults.
2. Highly talkative and friendly.
3. Since he has some independence, not as easily frustrated as a 2 year old.
4. Loves simple cooking and musical activities.
5. May be jealous and competitive but doesn't like competitive games.
6. Beginning of cooperative play but "three is a crowd".
7. Uses trial and error method in new situations and in problem solving.
8. Attention span: 4 - 8 minutes.
9. Able to make choice and abide by limits set by adults.
10. Able to set goals and pursue them.
11. Socially: stays with one group only a few minutes, then moves to a new group. Older 3's closeness of friends becomes main change rather than number of friends.

AGE 4

1. Very verbal, likes nonsense talk and rhyming.
2. Can be aggressive and demanding - "why?"
3. Has difficulty defining own limits - full of energy but may exhaust self.
4. May tease and be domineering "I'm the best, first, biggest, fastest..."
5. Likes to use small muscles - scissors, manipulative toys, crayons, etc.
6. Dislikes competition even in games.
7. Coming out of self into world - wonder "who am I?"
8. Very imaginative - lots of make believe, imaginary playmates.
9. Enjoys cooperative play, but may be quick to exclude others and sensitive to being excluded.
10. Independent - not necessarily particularly loving.
11. May argue frequently.
12. Can do two thing at the same time - work and sing, etc.
13. Ideas begun but not always finished.
14. Attention span: 8 - 13 minutes.

Characteristics of the Pre-school Child (Continued)

15. Will swear or use "bathroom words" to see reaction of adults or "what will happen?"
16. Feels strong drive to accomplish things.
17. Can adapt to materials being used (art, music, etc.)
18. Enjoys experiencing sensory pleasure - sounds, feels, smells, tastes.
19. Girls make-believe play tends toward domestic: boys toward war and building. Both enjoy long-term projects.
20. Displays assurance with materials and words. In art, can relate a project to ideas ahead in the future.
21. Can follow difficult verbal instruction.
22. In general, elaborates activities of 2's and 3's.

AGE 5

1. Uses purposeful language. Asks many questions, needs detailed answers.
2. Increased sense of boy/girl identity. Curious of body organs.
3. Independent and responsible.
4. Loves to visit friends and relatives. Home and possessions important.
5. Has more interest in others - less self-centered than 4 year.
6. Thrives on praise.
7. Much interest in dramatic play - will mimic adults in detail.
8. Needs to be "right" and have the last word.
9. Can and does enjoy planning ahead in a group.
10. Can manipulate materials being used - art, etc.
11. Has good large muscle control.
12. Can be aggressive and demanding.
13. Can take responsibility for care of materials and tools.
14. Welcomes form and directions.
15. Seeks facts and wonders. Especially stimulated by stories and can conduct group discussions.
16. Enjoys use of symbols, numbers and letters.
17. Entering into the world of older children in which the world is more formalized.

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FATHER-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

1.5 year old	May enjoy moderate rough housing with father. May refuse toilet training or other routine administered by father.
2 year old	Father often a great favorite but child may demand mother if in trouble or if tired. Father likely to step in with rigid requirements. "Time my son stayed dry", etc. when child is not quite ready for them.
2.5 year old	Very definite ideas of which person he wants to have do things for him. Domineering, and goes to extremes, may say to father, "I don't like you". Father usually surprised and hurt by this.
3 year old	Mother commonly the favored parent at this age. But, father can take over in many situations.
3.5 year old	Girls propose to father, and say "I love you".
4 year old	Child boasts about father outside of home. Excursions and times alone with father greatly prized, though father may need patience.
5 year old	Some for first time accept father when mother is ill. Relations with father smooth, pleasant, undisturbed. Takes punishment better from mother, may obey father better.

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MOTHER-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

2 year old	Child finds it easy and pleasant to obey mother.
2.5 year old	No matter what mother wants him to do, he wants to do the opposite, or "me do". Remember, he is at his best with you, and also his worst. Most loving but also most demanding. (may want to continue boyhood.)
3 year old	For most children this is a "We" stage, and Mother is the especially favored companion. Children want to help mother with her daily tasks.
3.5 year old	Child briefly goes through a state in which they are uncertain and insecure in their emotions as well as motor ways. Are excessively demanding of their parent's love and attention. They demand reassurance.
4 year old	Out of bounds resistance to Mother, but to others, "My mommy said so" is law.
5 year old	Docile, friendly, helpful. Mother is center of child's world. Children curious about pregnancy.